Unused World Bank aid with the Railways

1428. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news item captioned "WB aid for Railways lying unused" which appreared in the 'Financial Express' dated the 4th January, 1995;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that the loan amount of 13.277 million dollars received from World Bank is lying unused;

(c) if not, what is the total amount received by the Railways from the World Bank by the end of December, 1994 and out of this, the amount lying unused; and

(d) whether it is also a fact that Government are paying commitment charges on this unused amount; if so, what is the amount paid to the World Bank as commitment charges during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Railways have so far received from the World Bank, 9 IDA Credits amounting to US $ 951.5 million since 1963 and the entire amount has been utilised. World Bank also made available 8 IBRD loans amounting to US $ 857 million since 1949 out of which US $ 850 million was utilised. The balance amount of US $ 7 million was cancelled by World Bank in Aug, '93 on the expiry of the last of these loans (Loan No. 2417—IN).

Another loan (No. 2935-IN) obtained from World Bank is currently under execution. This loan is valid upto Dec., 1995. Out of the loan amount of US $ 252.5 million, US $ 237.4 million has already been claimed from the World Bank upto the end of Dec., '1994. The balance US $ 15.1 million is expected to be utilised before the loan closing date, i.e. 31 Dec., '1995.

(d) As per Loan Agreement Government have to pay to the World Bank a commitment charge at the rate of 0.75% per annum on the principal amount of the loan not withdrawn from time to time. An amount of US $ 10,06,089 has been paid to World Bank as commitment charges during the last three years.

Maintenance of Amritsar—Delhi Shatabdi Express

1429. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH MANN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the maintenance of Shatabadi Express which was done previously in Amritsar, is now being done in Delhi;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is also a fact that maintenance and change of rake, that is being done in Delhi, is leading to many difficulties and inconvenience for the staff; and

(d) if so, whether the maintenance of Shatabdi Express will resume at Amritsar?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) This has been done to centralise the maintenance of Shatabdi type trains at New Delhi to improve the utilisation of coaches.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) There is no such plan at present.

Gauge conversion projects

1430. SHRI P. UPENDRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have undertaken gauge conversion projects on a large scale;

(b) what are the sections taken up for conversion; and

(c) which are the sections already opened for traffic and sections on which work is in progress?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The sections converted into BG since 1992-93 when Projects Unigauge was launched till date and sections on which gauge conversion works are in progress are as under:

Sections already converted

1992-93

1. Lucknow-Kanpur
2. Delhi-Rewari
3. Kotkapur-Fazilka
4. Lalgarh-Merta Road
5. Lalgarh-Kolayat
6. Nadiad-Kapadvanj
7. Swaimadhopur-Jaipur
8. Bangalore-Tumkur
9. Mysore-Bangalore
10. Bangalore-Yelahanka
11. Guntur-Narsaraopet
12. Dindigul-Tuticorin
13. Bellary-Rayadurg
14. Aurangabad-Jalna
15. Parbhani-Parli Vaijnath
16. Burhwal-Mehmoodabad
17. Mankapur-Katra
18. Purulia-Kotshila

1993-94

1. Daund-Baramati
2. Bathinda-Hissar
3. Phulera-Jodhpur-Bhagat-Ki-Kothi
4. Patel Nagar-Sarai rohilla
5. Merta Rd.-Merta City
6. Mehmoodabad-Sitapur
7. Varanasi-Allahabad
8. Lucknow-Manaknagar
9. Lalkuan-Kathgodam
10. Guwahati-Lumding
11. Tumkur-Chikjajur
12. Chikjajur-Chitradurg
13. Mysore-Ashokapuram
14. Madras Beach-Tambaram
15. Narsaraopet-Donakonda
16. Jalna-Prabhani
17. Falaknuma-Secunderabad
18. Bolarum-Secunderabad
19. Falaknuma-Mehmoobnagar
20. Gondia-Arjuni
21. Jaipur-Phulera
22. Jaipur-Durgapur

1994-95

1. Prabani-Purna
2. Arjuni-Wadsa
3. Chikjajur-Chitradurg
4. Hissar-Rewari
5. Rewari-Jaipur
6. Birur-Shimoga